

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 164
By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mike Snider for his
contributions to the world of music.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has long been known throughout the world for its rich music heritage; from the hills of East Tennessee through Music City U.S.A. to the shores of the Mississippi, the talented musicians of this State have earned a reputation that is unsurpassed in the history of American music; and

WHEREAS, Mike Snider, a native of Gleason, is one such talented musician who has contributed to the building of that heritage as a preeminent country and bluegrass musician; and

WHEREAS, this amazing musician made his way on to the country music scene in the 1980's with his incomparable wit and stellar banjo playing. He first worked his way in to people's hearts through his hundreds of spots on TNN's *Nashville Now*, *Music City Tonight*, and *Prime Time Country*, and his impressive seven-year stay in the cornfield on *Hee Haw*, a syndicated television show; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his television work, Mr. Snider entertained crowds for seven years at Nashville's Opryland USA and on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry during more than 1,000 shows; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Snider's love for music was fueled by his parents, Billy and Rubye Snider, who encouraged their son early in his childhood; he first showed an interest in the trumpet at age six and an interest in the banjo at age sixteen; and

WHEREAS, another source of support in Mike Snider's life was his high school teacher, Edgar Floyd, who was responsible for Mike's traveling to the Ozarks for the Bluegrass Festival where he won the prestigious National Banjo Picking Contest. Mr. Floyd then took him to the

National Future Famous of America Convention and Camp Clements, where he provided entertainment for many; and

WHEREAS, when this beloved Gleason native first appeared at the Grand Ole Opry, more than 2,000 people from his home town and surrounding area came to support their favorite son; and

WHEREAS, Mike Snider, one of the highest accolades conveyed upon a country star garnered a membership among country music's elite in the Grand Ole Opry. A member since 1990, Mike continues to draw laughter and entertain crowds with his music; and

WHEREAS, a true musical genius, this banjo player undertook a renovation of his playing style, moving from the three-finger style picking of Earl Scruggs to the clawhammer style of banjo playing that which actually predates bluegrass music; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his expertise on the banjo, Mr. Snider is also legendary for his ability in playing the mandolin and the harmonica; and

WHEREAS, recently Mike Snider assembled a group of musicians into a collaboration which has been called "the best string band in the nation." The group, which includes the talented Matt Combs, Shad Cobb, Tony Wray, and Todd Cook, are entertaining many with their heartfelt American fiddle tunes; and

WHEREAS, through his popularity as a bluegrass musician is unparalleled, Mike Snider remains grounded and humbled in the loving companionship of his wife of twenty-three years, Sabrina, who he affectionately refers to as "Sweetie", and his children, Katie and Blake; and

WHEREAS, commendable success and fame in country music cannot turn this modest professional away from his roots; he recently gave back to his home-town community through a donation of land for Snider Park in Gleason, which will have four ballfields and a concession stand; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to join in celebrating the numerous contributions made to the music and entertainment worlds by Mike Snider during his illustrious career; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Mike Snider for for his devotion to music, his dedication to his countless fans, and his significant role in the realms of country and bluegrass music.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.